

CHAPTER 14:
OTHER, NON-VA
VETERANS ASSISTANCE
PROGRAMS

VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Pennsylvania American Legion

Kit Watson, Department Adjutant
PO Box 2324
Harrisburg, PA 17105
Phone: 717-730-9100
Website: www.pa-legion.com

The American Legion is a [congressionally chartered](#) patriotic, mutual-aid [Veterans organization](#) of the [United States armed forces](#) founded to benefit those Veterans who served during a wartime period as defined by the [U.S. Congress](#). The American Legion is able to assist Veterans in a variety of capabilities, including temporary financial assistance, volunteer services, Veteran advocacy, and assistance with finding housing for homeless Veterans.

AMVETS Regional Office

Elliot Miller, National Service Officer
5000 Wissahickon Ave, PO Box 42938
Philadelphia, PA 19101-2939
Phone: 215-381-3294
Email: elliott.miller@va.gov
Website: www.amvets.org

AMVets' outreach effort takes many forms, from the professional advice our service officers offer on earned Veterans benefits to our legislative efforts on Capitol Hill to the work done by our hospital volunteers. National Service Officers assist Veterans with their claims with the VA as advocates on their behalf.

Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

Philadelphia Office:
VAROIC P.O. Box 42938
Wissahickon and Manheim Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19101
Phone: 215-381-3065
Website: www.dav.org

The 1.2 million-member Disabled American Veterans (DAV) is a non-profit 501(c)(4) charity dedicated to building better lives for America's disabled Veterans and their families. Annually, the DAV represents more than 200,000 Veterans and their dependents with claims for benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense. The DAV's Voluntary Services Program operates a comprehensive network of volunteers who provide Veterans free rides to and from VA medical facilities and improve care and morale for sick and disabled Veterans. The DAV's 1.2 million members provide grassroots advocacy and services in communities nationwide. From educating lawmakers and the public about important issues to supporting services and legislation to help disabled Veterans — the DAV is there to promote its message of hope to all who have served and sacrificed.

Never Alone

Joe Hubicki, Founder
7816 Winston Road
Philadelphia, PA 19118
Phone: 1-866-458-4333
Email: jhubicki@earthlink.net
Website: www.neveralonecharity.com

Never Alone is a non-profit organization that provides low income seniors with High Tech assist devices which keep them living independently in their own homes. Founded by a group of concerned citizens, caregivers and inventors, Never Alone is committed to offering local services and resources for the elderly and handicapped who find it difficult to take care of themselves on their own. The organization was established to promote and/or provide direct care services to the elderly and handicapped as well as their caregivers and families.

Operation Homefront of PA and DE, Inc.

PO Box 520
Blue Bell, PA 19422
Phone: 215-764-6164 or 1-800-779-5892
Fax: 1-888-699-5822
Email: pa@operationhomefront.net
Website: www.operationhomefront.net

Operation Homefront is a nationwide organization that provides emergency assistance and morale to our troops, to the families they leave behind, and to wounded warriors when they return home. This program partners with local volunteers, donors and businesses to connect troops and their families with emergency services such as emergency financial assistance, donated pro bono or discounted services and ways to stay connected to loved ones overseas. Operation Homefront also provides morale support like Easter baskets, back-to-school backpacks, Freedom Walks, Thanksgiving baskets and holiday Adopt-A-Family.

PA National Guard- Military OneSource

Fort Indian Gap
Annville, PA 17003
Phone: 1-800-342-9647
Website: www.militaryonesource.com

Military OneSource assists with education, relocating and a variety of other areas. It is available by phone or online and is a free service provided by the Department of Defense for active-duty, Guard, and Reserve service members and their families. The service is completely private and confidential, with few exceptions to what is excluded.

United Spinal Association

Christen Golden, Regional Service Director
5000 Wissahickon Ave, PO Box 42938
Philadelphia, PA 19101-2938
Phone: 215-381-3037 or 1-800-807-0190
Fax: 215-381-3495
Website: www.unitedspinal.org

United Spinal Association is a national nonprofit membership organization formed in 1946 by paralyzed Veterans. Their mission is to improve the quality of life of Americans with spinal cord injuries and disorders (SCI/D). Membership is free and open to all individuals with spinal cord

injuries and diseases. Some of their initiatives are promoting inclusion, improving access, fostering independence, enhancing mobility, and demanding equality, along with our commitment to member service, have helped to improve the quality of life and to create opportunities for their members and all people with spinal cord injuries or disorders.

82nd Airborne Division Association

Leon Anderson Jr.- Life Member

256 Eagleview Blvd, PMV Suite 235

Exton, PA 19341

Email: amm1993@verizon.net

Website: www.philly82nd.com

The 82nd Airborne Division Association is for anyone who ever served in the 82nd Airborne Division, and anyone who is currently serving on active duty on jump status; or, has ever served in any of the uniformed services on either jump or glider status and was honorably discharged. Their missions are to further develop the bond between current and past Airborne forces of the U.S. Military, maintain a record of the history and accomplishments of Airborne Troopers, maintain a close liaison with active Division, support the 82nd Airborne Division Memorial Museum, provide scholarships through the Association Educational Fund to recently released Veterans and children of Veteran and active duty members of the Association and Honor the NCO and Trooper of the Year.

Vietnam Veterans of America Inc- PA State Council

Jeffrey White- President

PO Box 433

Newtown Square, PA 19073

Phone: 1-800-VVA-VETS

Email: vvapastatecouncil@verizon.net

Website: www.vva.org

Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. is the only Congressional chartered Vietnam Veterans organization. It looks to aggressively advocate on issues important to Veterans, seek full access to quality health care for Veterans, identify the full range of disabling injuries and illnesses incurred during military service, hold government agencies accountable for following laws mandating Veterans health care, Create a positive public perception of Vietnam Veterans, seek the fullest possible accounting of America's POW/MIAs, support the next generation of America's war Veterans and serve the community.

For a list of Veteran Service Organizations, go to

<http://www1.va.gov/VSO/index.cfm?template=view>

*Source: www.pa-legion.com; www.amvets.org; www.neveralonecharity.com; www.operationhomefront.net; www.militaryonesource.com; www.unitedspinal.org; www.philly82nd.com; www.vva.org; <http://www1.va.gov/VSO/index.cfm?template=view>

COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICES

These are not VAMC, but they will help many Veterans issues, including filing claims with VA

BERKS COUNTY

1243 County Road
Leesport, PA 19533

Office hours - Monday - Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
Phone and Fax 610-378-5601 ext. 8150, fax 610-378-5627
Internet - email: jkingkinger@countyofberks.com
Web: <http://www.co.berks.pa.us>

BUCKS COUNTY

Neshaminy Manor Center
Neshaminy Complex, Building K
Doylestown, PA 18901

Office hours - Monday - Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm
Phone and Fax 215-345-3307, fax 215-345-3833

Bucks County Government Services Center Branch Office

7321 New Falls Rd.
Levittown, PA 19055

Office hours - Monday - Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm
Phone 215-949-5800

Quakertown Government Services Center

515 S. West End Blvd.
Quakertown, PA 18951

Office hours - Wednesday only 9:00 am to Noon
Internet: email: dhfraley@co.bucks.pa.us
Web: <http://www.buckscounty.org>

CHESTER COUNTY

P.O.Box 2747, 601 Westtown Rd., Suite 385
West Chester, PA 19382-4545

Office hours - Monday - Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Phone and fax: 610-344-6375, fax 610-344-4552
Internet: email: pandriole@chesco.org
Web: <http://dsf.chesco.org>

DELAWARE COUNTY

201 W. Front St.
Media, PA 19063

Office hours - Monday - Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Phone and fax: 610-891-4646, fax 610-566-3947
Internet: email: delcova@county.delaware.pa.us
Web: <http://www.co.delaware.pa.us/depts/Veterans.html>

LANCASTER COUNTY

150 N. Queen St., Suite 101
Lancaster, PA 17603-3562

Office hours - Monday - Friday 8:30 am to 5:00 pm
Phone and fax: 717-299-7920, fax 717-209-3077
Internet: email: DTooth@co.lancaster.pa.us
Web: <http://www.co.lancaster.pa.us>

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

P.O.Box 311, 1430 Dekalb St.
Norristown, PA 19404-0311

Office hours - Monday - Friday 8:30 am to 4:15 pm
Phone and fax: 610-278-3285, fax 610-278-5935
Internet: email: jseader@mail.montcopa.org
Web: <http://www.montgo.org/mcva>

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

317 City Halls
Philadelphia, PA 19107-3205

Office hours - Monday - Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm
Phone and fax: 215-686-3256, fax 215-686-3267
Internet: email: edgar.a.howard@phila.gov
Web: none

*Source: <http://www.milvet.state.pa.us/DMVA/355.htm>; 6/2009

PA DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERAN AFFAIRS-

The Bureau for Veterans Affairs mission is to provide advice and assistance to Pennsylvania's 1.1 million Veterans and their families; to provide quality care to aging Veterans; and to create responsible citizens and develop lifelong learning in Veterans' children who reside at Scotland School for Veterans' Children.

The services include:

- The Pennsylvania State Veterans Home System
- Scotland School for Veterans' Children
- Pennsylvania Disabled Veterans Real Estate Tax Exemption
- Pennsylvania Veterans Emergency Assistance
- Pennsylvania Blind Veterans Pension
- Pennsylvania Paralyzed Veterans Pension
- Pennsylvania Educational Gratuity
- Pennsylvania Veterans Service Officer Support
- Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial
- Pennsylvania DD214/215 Program
- Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans' Bonus Program

There are also a wide range of federal and county benefits available to qualified Veterans and their families. County Veterans Directors or Service Officers can be an excellent source of information and assistance when applying for these benefits.

Contact Information :

Bureau For Veterans Affairs
Bldg S-0-47, FTIG
Annville, PA 17003
Phone: 1-800-547-2838
Fax: (717) 861-8589
Email: bfoster@state.pa.us
Website: <http://www.paVeterans.state.pa.us>

*Source <http://www.milvet.state.pa.us/DMVA/163.htm>

DELAWARE VALLEY VETERANS HOME

The Delaware Valley Veterans Home was dedicated on November 1, 2002 and is the Commonwealth's sixth and newest Veterans' home operated by the PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The facility serves 171 Veterans and their eligible spouses in a caring and home-like setting.

The facility includes many amenities, such as, Canteen, a large Community Room for activities, Library, Barber Shop, Beautician and Chapel. We have two fulltime Physicians on staff and a team of RN's, LPN's and CNA's on each shift providing around the clock continuity of care for each resident. It is a smoke-free environment.

Contact Information:

Delaware Valley Veterans Home
2701 Southampton Road
Philadelphia, PA 19154

Phone: (215) 965-5900

Fax: (215) 965-0377

Website: <http://www.dvvh.state.pa.us>

*Source: <http://www.milvet.state.pa.us/DMVA/181.htm>; 6/2009

THE SCOTLAND SCHOOL FOR VETERANS' CHILDREN (SSVC)

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania budget proposal announced by Governor Edward G. Rendell on February 4, 2009 **includes no funding to continue operations of Scotland School after June 30, 2009.**

Scotland School for Veterans' Children is a state-owned and operated residential school for children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, brothers and sisters of Veterans.

Contact Information:

Scotland School For Veterans Children

3583 Scotland Road

Scotland, PA 17254

Phone: (717) 264-7187 ext 699

Fax: (717) 264-0322

Email: ra-ssvcadmissions@state.pa.us

Website: <http://www.ssvc.state.pa.us>

*Source : <http://www.milvet.state.pa.us/DMVA/987.htm>; 6/2009

VETERANS REAL ESTATE TAX EXEMPTION PROGRAM

Purpose: To provide real estate tax exemption for any honorably discharged Veteran who is 100% disabled, a resident of the Commonwealth and has a financial need.

Veteran's eligibility criteria:

- Served in the military honorably
- Served during established war service dates as determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
**The following decorations can also be used to establish wartime service: Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal or Navy Expeditionary Medal.
- Must have a 100% permanent and total service-connected disability rating by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or as the result of military service the Veteran is blind or paraplegic or has sustained the loss of two or more limbs
 - Blind: Visual acuity of three-sixtieths or ten two-hundredths, or less normal Vision
 - Paraplegic: The bilateral paralysis of the upper or lower extremities of the body
 - Must be a resident of the Commonwealth
 - Must occupy the real estate as his/her principal dwelling
 - Dwelling is owned solely by the Veteran or as an estate in the entirety
 - Must prove financial need:
 - Veteran must prove financial need according to the criteria established by the State Veterans Commission if their annual income exceeds \$79,050
 - Applicants with an annual income of \$79,050 or less are given a rebuttable presumption to have a need for the exemption

**Upon the death of a qualified Veteran, tax exemption may pass on to the unmarried surviving spouse if financial need can be shown.

Legislation:

Constitution: Article VIII, Section 2(c) (Establishes requirement to prove "Financial Need")

Statute: Chapter 89, Title 51

Chapter 89, Title 51 (Amended)

Procedures: Chapter 5, Title 43

Current Policy Letter: May 2008

Where to apply?

Contact the County Veterans Affairs Director in the county you reside to apply for this program.

How is financial need established?

An applicant, who earns over \$79,050

annually, will be considered to have a financial need for the exemption when the applicant's allowable expenses exceed the applicant's household income. The applicant's monthly household expenses will be calculated to include a cost of living allowance and dependent's allowance.

What happens after the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs certifies a “financial need” for the Disabled Veterans Tax Exemption and eligibility criteria has been verified?

The Board for the Assessment and Revision of Taxes will grant the tax exemption. Cases that have been granted tax exemption will be reviewed periodically (every 5 years) to determine continued need for exemption from certain real estate property taxes.

*Source:<http://www.milvet.state.pa.us/DMVA/592.htm>; 6/2009

VETERANS EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Purpose: Provides financial aid in an emergency and on a temporary basis (not to exceed three months in a 12-month period) to Veterans and their beneficiaries who reside in Pennsylvania for the necessities of life (food, dairy, shelter, fuel and clothing).

Veteran's eligibility criteria:

- An honorably discharged Veteran.
- Served during established war service dates as determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
**The following decorations can also be used to establish wartime service: Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal or Navy Expeditionary Medal
- Must be a Pennsylvania resident.
- Unexpected loss of income within 180 days of application through no fault of the individual.
- May not be on Public Assistance.
- Must have a financial need.
- Upon the recent death of a Veteran, their spouse or orphaned children are eligible provided the Veteran would have qualified prior to his/her death.

All applications are required to have verification that the applicant is not receiving monetary assistance payable under the Act of June 13, 1967 (PL 31, No 21) known as the Public Welfare Code. The application must bear the full name of the official performing the verification.

Legislation:

Statute: Chapter 85, Title 51

Procedures: Chapter 5, Title 43

Where to apply?

Contact the County Veterans Affairs Director in the county you reside to apply for this program.

What documentation is needed to apply?

Applicants must demonstrate they “suffered a sudden and unexpected loss of income or other source of support such that they have a direct and immediate demonstrable financial need for assistance in order to provide themselves and their families with food, shelter, clothing, required medical care and other necessities of life.” The loss must have occurred within 180 days of application.

The expenses reported must be in the category of food, shelter, clothing and required medical care of the applicant or living dependents. Funeral bills will no longer be accepted as a medical expense.

Any reported income or expense above the standard monthly expense must be accompanied by supporting documentation.

The following documents are mandatory:

- Veterans DD-214 or Report of Separation from active military service.
- A copy of the applicant's marriage license and Veteran's death certificate for widows and widowers.
- A copy of a birth certificate of the Veteran's dependent children and if applicable, a copy of court orders indicating payment of child support.
- Proof of residency by the Veteran's tax record, employment record, voting registration or a copy of driver's license.
- Proof of loss of employment, if applicable, including the applicant's termination notice from employment and last pay slip.
- Proof of all other benefits such as unemployment compensation, education benefits, disability compensation/pension, social security, other pensions, union benefits, workman's compensation or insurance benefits.
- Proof of lack of other income, including employment pay and allowances, annual or sick leave, income from rental property, savings, financial assistance provided by family and friends, interest and dividends.
- Receipts indicating current monthly mortgage, rent and all utility payments claimed.

All applications are required to have verification that the applicant is not receiving monetary assistance payable under the Act of June 13, 1967 (PL 31, No 21) known as the Public Welfare Code. The application must bear the full name of the official performing the verification.

*Source : <http://www.milvet.state.pa.us/DMVA/185.htm>; 6/2009

PA BLIND VETERANS PENSION

Purpose: Provides eligible blind Veterans a pension of \$150.00 per month.

Veteran's eligibility criteria:

- ☐ Served in the military honorably.
- ☐ Resident of Pennsylvania upon entering the military.
- ☐ Suffered a service-related injury or incurred a disease which resulted in loss of vision:
 - Visual acuity with correcting lens is 3/60 or 10/200 or equivalent, or less normal vision in the better eye or,
 - Includes circumstances where the widest diameter of the visual field of the better eye has contracted to an angular distance of not greater than 20°.

Legislation:

Statute: Chapter 77, Title 51

Chapter 77, Title 51 (Increased amount of pension to \$100)

Chapter 77, Title 51 (Increased amount of pension to \$150)

Procedures: Chapter 5, Title 43

Where to apply?

Contact the County Veterans Affairs Director in the county you reside to apply for this program.

What documentation is needed to apply?

- ☐ Need a copy of last military service DD214
- ☐ Proof of Pennsylvania residency upon entering the military
- ☐ United States Department of Veterans Affairs disability claim number

*Source: <http://www.milvet.state.pa.us/DMVA/196.htm>; 6/2009

PARALYZED VETERANS PENSION

Purpose: Provides eligible paralyzed Veterans a pension of \$150.00 per month.

Veteran's eligibility criteria:

- ☐ Served in the military honorably.
- ☐ Resident of Pennsylvania upon entering the military.
- ☐ Suffered an injury or disease resulting in the loss or loss of use of two or more extremities (arms/hands or legs/feet).
- ☐ Veteran must have a 100% permanent and total service-connected disability rating by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Legislation:

Statute: Chapter 77, Title 51

Chapter 77, Title 51 (Increased amount of pension to \$150)

Procedures: Chapter 5, Title 43

Where to apply?

Contact the County Veterans Affairs Director in the county you reside to apply for this program.

What documentation is needed to apply?

- ☐ Need a copy of last military service DD214
- ☐ Proof of Pennsylvania residency upon entering the military
- ☐ United States Department of Veterans Affairs disability claim number

*Source: <http://www.milvet.state.pa.us/DMVA/197.htm>; 6/2009

EDUCATIONAL GRATUITY PROGRAM

Purpose:

Educational Gratuities program provides financial assistance to children of honorably discharged Veterans who have service-connected disabilities and served during a period of war or armed conflict or children of Veterans who die or died in service during a period of war or armed conflict.

Veteran's eligibility criteria:

- Died in service during a period of war or armed conflict or,
- A Veteran who has:
 - An honorable discharge from the U.S. military
 - Served during established war service dates as determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

**The following decorations can also be used to establish wartime service: Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal or Navy Expeditionary Medal

- Veteran must have a 100% permanent and total service-connected disability rating by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Child's eligibility criteria:

- Must be between the ages of 16 and 23, living within the Commonwealth five years prior to application and must attend a school within the Commonwealth.
- Applicant must have a financial need.

Payments:

Payment will not exceed \$500.00 per term or semester per qualified child to each approved educational institution upon submission by that approved educational institution of proof of matriculation of the applicant. Educational gratuity payments may not be made for longer than 4 scholastic years.

Legislation:

Statute: Chapter 87, Title 51

Procedures: Chapter 5, Title 43

Where to apply?

Contact the County Veterans Affairs Director in the county you reside to apply for this program.

What documentation is needed to apply?

- ☐ Need a copy of last military service DD214 or Military Death Certificate of the sponsoring Veteran
- ☐ Copy of birth certificate of applicant
- ☐ Proof of identification (driver's license, voter registration, etc.)
- ☐ Proof of Pennsylvania residency for last five (5) years

*Source: <http://www.milvet.state.pa.us/DMVA/201.htm>; 6/2009

PENNSYLVANIA VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER SUPPORT

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs works with its partners to ensure advocacy for all Pennsylvania Veterans.

The Veteran Service Officer support system consists of United States Department of Veterans Affairs Accredited Representatives hosted by Veteran Service Organizations, County and State government. Most representatives are recognized by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary for preparation, presentation and prosecution of claims under laws administered by the USDVA.

Seeking benefits from the USDVA without proper representation can be difficult to say the least. Understanding the complex rules, laws and evidence requirements can be very technical and confusing. We strongly recommend that no Veteran attempt to navigate this system without proper representation and assistance of an accredited representative or organization.

Veteran Service Officers serve as the Veterans' assigned representative at no cost to the Veteran. They help identify what evidence is required in the claim process. They monitor the process of the claim through the adjudication process and intercede on the Veteran's behalf if problems arise. They review decisions made by the USDVA to ensure Veterans receive the full benefits for which entitled.

County Veteran Service Officers: All 67 counties in Pennsylvania are authorized a County Director of Veteran Affairs (CDVA) by county code. Most are accredited by the USDVA and either by the state service organization or a Veteran service organization, or both. Most are active members of the Pennsylvania Association of County Directors of Veteran Affairs and many are also members of the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers. CDVA provide advocacy to Veterans, service members and Veteran families to assist them in any Veteran program or benefit.

Chartered Veteran Service Organizations

Many Veteran Service Organizations in Pennsylvania provide Veteran Service Officer Representatives who prepare, present and prosecute claims for benefits upon behalf of Veterans and family members with the USDVA. You do not normally have to be a member of the specific organization to receive service from them. To contact an Accredited Representative, go <http://www.milvet.state.pa.us/DMVA/846.htm> and click on the link below:

- [American Legion](#)
- [AMVETS](#)
- [Disabled American Veterans](#)
- [Military Order of the Purple Heart](#)
- [Veterans of Foreign Wars](#)
- [United Spinal Association](#)
- [Vietnam Veterans of America](#)
- [Jewish War Veterans](#)

State Service Officers: Pennsylvania operates its own Veteran Service Organization with three field offices. State Veteran Service Officers provide representation of claims submitted by CDVA service officers as well as individual Veteran representation. The state service officer program works in harmony with the USDVA Regional Offices, Veteran Service Organizations and all Veteran advocates assisting Veterans to obtain all county, state and federal benefits. To contact one of the DMVA Field Offices, go <http://www.milvet.state.pa.us/DMVA/846.htm> and click on the link below:
[Philadelphia Field Office](#); [Pittsburgh Field Office](#); [Fort Indiantown Gap Field Office](#)

PA VETERANS MEMORIAL PA VETERANS MEMORIAL

Hours of Operation:

Monday - Friday

8:30 AM to 2:00 PM

Address: RR#2 Box 484

Indiantown Gap Road

Annville, PA 17003

Phone: (717) 865-5254

Fax: (717) 865-5256

At its site at the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial is the first in the Commonwealth to honor Veterans of all eras from the Revolutionary forward. This Memorial stands - a central location for ceremony and contemplation, education and commemoration - in lasting tribute to those who served our state and nation in times of war and peace.

The Indiantown Gap National Cemetery opened on September 20, 1982. It is the sixth largest national cemetery with 677 acres and a projected capacity of 55,000 Gravesites.

*Source: <http://www.milvet.state.pa.us/DMVA/340.htm>; 6/2009

DD 214/DD 215 PROGRAMS

Almost half of the contact we receive from Veterans and others pertains to locating a DD 214. A document so important should be kept in a safe place. We highly recommend that Veterans record their discharges with their County Courthouse so as to be able to obtain free certified copies for the remainder of their life and available upon their death.

The DD 214 provides the member and the service with a concise record of a period of service with the Armed Forces at the time of the member's separation, discharge or change in military status. In addition, the form is an authoritative source of information for both governmental agencies and the Armed Forces for purposes of employment, benefit and reenlistment data.

If you do not currently have a copy of your Certificate of Release or Discharge, DD Form 214, now is the time to obtain it before you need it.

PENNSYLVANIA NATIONAL GUARD

Pennsylvania Army and Air National Guard maintain a state file of service after 1985. Information from these state files varies but should include records of enlistment, discharge and other administrative actions. The Veteran or next of kin of a deceased Veteran can obtain copies of available information by providing a Record Request Form, mailed to:

Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs
Attention: Record Custodian (Insert Army or Air)
Bldg 0-47, FTIG
Annville, PA 17003-5002

The Pennsylvania State Archives maintains evidence of service for Pennsylvania Military units during the period 1775-1985. You can review their holdings and procedures at:
<http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/Bah/DAM/milit2.htm>

MILITARY VETERANS, NEXT-OF-KIN, AND GENEALOGISTS

Military Veterans and next-of-kin (Defined as surviving spouse, father, mother, son, daughter, sister or brother) can easily request copies of discharges and other Personnel records at:
<http://www.archives.gov/Veterans/evetreecs/index.html>

Genealogists and others must submit a Standard Form 180 and special rules apply. You can read these rules at: <http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/public/general-public.html>

If you have been discharged from the military service, with no remaining service obligation, your Personnel Files are most probably stored at the National Archives and Records Affairs (NARA). If you require information maintained in your Personnel Files you should review this site:
<http://www.archives.gov/Veterans/military-service-records>

A DD Form 215 is used to correct errors or additions to a DD Form 214 discovered after the original had been delivered and/or distribution had been made.

A DD Form 214/215 is prepared in 8 copies and distributed as follows:

- Copy 1 – Member
- Copy 2 – Service Personnel File
- Copy 3 – United States Department of Veteran Affairs
- Copy 4 – Member (if initialed in Block 30)
- Copy 5 – US Dept of Labor
- Copy 6 – State Director of Veteran Affairs (if checked yes in block 20)
- Copy 7and8 – Distributed in accordance with Military Service Dept directions

SERVICE MEDICAL RECORDS

If you are attempting to locate your Service Medical Records you should review the information at <http://www.archives.gov/Veterans/military-service-records/medical.html#medical-claims> to determine where to start your search.

If you had an overnight stay in a military treatment facility while on active duty, a clinical record of that treatment most likely exists and is available. To review the rules and procedures for requesting Clinical Records refer to: <http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/public/active-duty-medicalrecords.html>-

Veterans who plan to file a claim for benefits with the USDV do not need to request copies of Service Medal Records. The VA will obtain them if not already in their possession.

*Source: <http://www.milvet.state.pa.us/DMVA/207.htm>; 6/2009

PERSIAN GULF VETERANS' BONUS PROGRAM

On April 24, 2006, Governor Edward Rendell signed House Bill 1820 into law as Act 29 of 2006. This Bill establishes the Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans' Benefit Act. On November 7, 2006, Pennsylvania voters gave overwhelming approval to a ballot question to fund the program. The bond issue created a fund for the payment of compensation to, or on behalf of, eligible current and former members of the United States Armed Forces, a reserve component of the United States Armed Forces, or the Pennsylvania National Guard.

Deadline:

The deadline for submitting applications for the Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans' Benefit Program is August 31, 2015.

Digest:

Go to <http://www.milvet.state.pa.us/DMVA/2564.htm> for informational Digest, or pamphlet, which explains the program.

Regulations:

Go to <http://www.milvet.state.pa.us/DMVA/2564.htm> for the official, authorized regulation that govern the Persian Gulf Veterans Bonus Program.

2007-2008 Annual Report

Go to <http://www.milvet.state.pa.us/DMVA/2564.htm> for The 2007-2008 Annual Report for the Persian Gulf Veterans Bonus Program.

*Source: <http://www.milvet.state.pa.us/DMVA/2564.htm>; 6/2009